

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10677 301448Z

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ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 W

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R 301424Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

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FOR GARRISON FROMMATLOCK

1. THE PHOTOGRAPH OF BREZHNEV AND LEONOV FEATURED N THE CENTRAL PRESS OF JULY 22 IS WIDELY REGARDED HERE AS AN EXAMPLE OF GAUCHERIE BY THE KREMLIN'S PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS. THE PICTURE BEARS NO DATE BUT OBVIOUSLY WAS TAKEN BEFORE THE LAUNCHING OF SOYUZ-19. WE THINK THAT SOVIETS BELATEDLY REALIZED NEED FOR ASUITABLE PICTURE AND FOUND THAT THEY HAD NOT PREPARED THEMSELVES FOR THE EVENT. POOR FIT BETWEEN LEONOV'S HEAD AND SUIT PLUS OBVIOUS RETOUCHING OF BREZHNEV'S FACE (A LONG-STANDING PRESS CUSTOM HERE) MAKES THE PICTURE LOOK LIKE A SECOND-RATE FAKE. THIS IMPRESSION WAS REINFORCED BY SOVIET REFUSAL TO MAKE PHOTOGRAPH AVAILABLE TO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. THE SEEMING FALSITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPH IS NOT CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH BREZHNEV'S HEALTH BY LOCAL OBSERVERS AND NEWSMEN WHO HAVE CONCENTRATED ON SHODDINESS OF THE PICTURE. BREZHNEV'S HELSINKI APPEARANCE HAS DAMPENED HEALTH ISSUE HERE, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. DOBRYNIN AND DEFMIN GRECHKO ARE ALSO IN THE PHOTOGRAPH PLUS SOMEBODY NAMED NIKITCHENKO, ACCORDING TO THE SOVIETS.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT GIVEN RECENT LEAKS OF EMBASSY CABLES THIS MAY NOT BE THE BEST TIME TO RAISE THE SUBJECT, BUT
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WE WONDER IF THE TIME HAS NOT COME TO TAKE REPORTING CABLES

ON SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION OUT OF THE AUTOMATIC EXDIS
CLASSIFICATION. HHE NEED FOR HOLDING SO CLOSELY REPORTS
ON JEWISH EMIGRATION WOULD SEEM TO HAVE DIMINISHED GREATLY,
AND WE FIND IT CUMBERSOME TO HAVE THE KEY DOCUMENTS ON THIS
SUBJECT SO HIGHLY CLASSIFIED (THE SINGLE COPY MUST BE KEPT
IN C & R). OBVIOUSLY, WE WOULD CONTINUE IN ANY CASE TO
REPORT SUITABLE CABLES WITHIN THE EXDIS CLASSIFICATION, BUT
WE WOULD LIKE A RELAXATION OF THIS BLANKET RESTRICTION.
MATLOCK

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